

MASSACHUSETTS ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS



Massachusetts is the proud home of the Boston Clean Cities Coalition.

Overview

Massachusetts does not have any incentive programs for alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), other than taxing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) at a lower rate than gasoline. Several Massachusetts utility companies support the use of alternative fuels and offer incentives on a case-by-case basis.

State Incentives

At the time of publication, the State of Massachusetts was not offering incentives or rebates for AFVs. However, legislation was pending in the state legislature to provide tax credits for AFV purchases. For more information, call Irving Sacks, Division of Energy Resources, at (617) 727-4732.

Utility/Private Incentives

Bay State Gas Company has a preferential fuel rate of 60¢/gasoline gallon equivalent (gge) for natural gas used to fuel a motor vehicle that will expire December 31, 1996. Bay State Gas operates 2 public CNG refueling stations; 1 in Brockton, and 1 in Springfield. Contact Gary Robinson at (508) 836-7188 for additional information.

Boston Edison offers customers technical assistance, products, and demonstrations for electric vehicles (EVs) and chargers. Boston Edison operates public rapid recharging stations for EVs at Boston City Hall and Logan Airport. Plans are underway to install charging stations along the Massachusetts Turnpike. For more information, contact David Dilts at (617) 424-3590.

Boston Gas provides technical assistance to fleet customers wishing to convert to CNG vehicles. The 2 Boston Gas CNG fueling stations are open to the public on a contractual basis, and Boston Gas has opened several public CNG fueling stations. Boston Gas has established a training center for CNG technicians. For additional information, call Frank Dugan at (617) 723-5512, extension 4201.

Colonial Gas offers technical assistance to customers converting vehicles to CNG and to CNG fueling stations. Rebates or incentives are available on a case-by-case basis. Colonial Gas operates 2 public CNG fueling stations. Contact Bill Simpson at (508) 322-3638.

Commonwealth Gas provides technical assistance to fleet customers wishing to convert to CNG vehicles and offers a Fuelmaker leasing program. The Commonwealth Gas natural gas refueling station in Southborough is available to the public by arrangement. For more information, contact John Costello at (508) 481-7900, extension 2294.

Laws & Regulations

The restrictions on light- and medium-duty CNG vehicles have been lifted, and CNG vehicles may now travel through Boston's tunnels and underpasses.

The Governor issued an executive order on June 27, 1996 requiring state fleets to acquire AFVs according to the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT), and requiring a certain percentage of these vehicles to be electric vehicles (EVs).

A proposed rulemaking was issued in the fall of 1996, in response to the Governor's executive order, mandating AFV acquisitions for the state fleet, based on the EPACT requirements.

House Bill 3334 (1996) deregulates the sale of CNG when used as a motor vehicle fuel.

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Laws & Regulations (cont.)

In 1990, the state enacted legislation adopting California vehicle exhaust emissions requirements, phased-in starting in 1993. Enforcement of the Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) program began in 1995.

The state excise tax on CNG and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), for on-highway use, is about 10¢/gge, compared to the 21¢/gallon state excise tax on gasoline.

Points of Contact

Boston Clean Cities Coordinator

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Massachusetts State Energy Office

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Metropolitan Planning Organizations

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Massachusetts State Transportation Contact

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Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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U.S. Department of Energy Regional Support Office

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U.S. Department of Transportation Contacts

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Federal Transit Administration

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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